

Palafox House, 575-585 South Meyer Avenue
Barrio Libre (Barrio Histórico)
Tucson
Pima County
Arizona

HABS No. AZ-73-38

HABS,
ARIZ,
10-TUCSO,
30/38-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BARRIO LIBRE (Barrio Histórico)

PALAFOX HOUSE, 575-585 SOUTH MEYER AVENUE

HABS No. AZ-73-38

Location: 575-585 South Meyer Avenue, Tucson, Pima County, Arizona.

Present Owner: René Marcus Verdugo
P. O. Box 2629, Tucson, Arizona 85702

Present Occupants: René Verdugo
Mrs. Estella Gutiérrez

Present Use: Residential; apartments.

Significance: The rear buildings (579-585) of this complex of dwellings are probably among the oldest structures on the block. Forming an L, the buildings running east-west once faced toward the well on the interior of the block, now in the rear yard of 551-557 S. Meyer Avenue. The dwelling in front, facing S. Meyer Avenue, is of more recent construction, exhibited by its setback, gabled roof, and landscaping.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 575 S. Meyer, ca. 1907; rear apartments, possibly pre-1880.
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: See chain of title below.

Part of Lot 7, Block 241, parcels 29 and 30.

1881 Deed, March 12, 1881, recorded in Volume 10, page 169. Corporate Authorities of the Village of Tucson to Theodosia Martinez.

1881 Deed, July 12, 1881, recorded in Volume 10, page 444. Theodosia Martinez to Soledad Acosta.

1907 Deed, June 1, 1907, recorded in Volume 43, page 167. Soledad Acosta to Vincente* Palafox.

1908 Deed, November 24, 1908, recorded in Volume 46, page 60. Soledad Acosta to Guadalupe Herreras.

1909 Deed, August 24, 1909, recorded in Volume 47, page 301. Vincente and Guadalupe Palafox to Guadalupe Herreras.

* See Vicente, below.

- 1913 Deed, November 17, 1913, recorded in Volume 57, page 172. Andres and Margarita Herreras to Casimiro and Antonio Gallego.
- 1935 Deed, July 13, 1935, recorded in Volume 185, page 352. Florencio Gallego, et al to María Antonio Gallego.
- 1935 Deed, August 19, 1935, recorded in Volume 185, page 451. Estate of Casimiro Gallego, deceased.
- 1949 Deed, July 25, 1949, recorded in Volume 184, page 432. Estate of María Antonio Gallego to Florencio Gallego, et al.
- 1949 Deed, July 28, 1949, recorded in Volume 185, page 415. Rosario Gallego et al to Florencio Gallego.
- 1949 Deed, July 30, 1949, recorded in Volume 186, page 167. Florencio Gallego to Genoveva and Manuel Bermudez.
- 1973 Deed, October 16, 1973, recorded in Volume 4620, page 195. M. R. Bermúdez to Y/ G/ Avila.
- 1977 Deed, August 25, 1977, recorded in Volume 5597, page 37. M. R. Bermúdez to R. M. Verdugo.

4. Builder: #575- Vicente Palafox; rear apartments- unknown.

5. Alterations and additions: The rear section of this complex probably pre-dates 1880. The several dwellings, because of their irregular shapes and sizes, could have been constructed at different times. Two porches on the rear structures were removed between 1914-1919, and only minor exterior modifications have been made since that time. A small building housing several bathrooms has been constructed during the past five years.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

This house and the rear apartments are associated with two families-- Palafox and Gallego. The Gallego family acquired the property with the rear apartments during the first decade of the 1900s. Mrs. Palafox gave the western part of the lot, facing S. Meyer Ave., to her son Vicente who constructed the house at #575. Andres Herreras, married to a sister of Vicente Palafox, occupied one of the rear apartments for several years before building a house on the opposite side of S. Meyer Avenue. In 1913 the house and apartments passed to the Gallego family, friends of the Herreras who lived at Kennedy and Convent streets, and who owned a ranch called La Sierra. Ylario Gallego, a carpenter, married Dolores Herreras (a daughter of Andres) and later moved to Los Angeles. The Gallego family was large, and the property remained in their possession until the 1970s.

Prepared by: Ann E. Huston
Project Historian,
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Historic American Buildings Survey
September 1980

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This rambling series of living units reaches back into the lot, creating an open area on the south side. One portion of this structure is believed to be the oldest structure on the block.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is structurally sound, but suffers some deterioration. The building is about to undergo rehabilitation work.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building measures 22' north-to-south along the main (west) facade of #575. The south facade of #575 measures 19'. The building extends 87' east into the block. The rear portion measures 40' wide, north-to-south, and 17' deep. The connecting wing measures 11' wide, north-to-south, and is 52' long. The general shape of the building is an L.
2. Foundations: Inaccessible.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The building is constructed of mud adobe walls, plastered, and painted white.
4. Structural system, framing: The adobe bearing walls support a system of ceiling joists of milled lumber (2" x 6", 3" x 7", 2" x 12") where exposed. The northeast room of #583 has a ceiling of pine vigas, reinforced by two 4" x 6" girders. This room may constitute the oldest structure on the block.

The roof system is of standard milled lumber rafters.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Doorways have doors set to the inside surface of the wall. The jambs are of wood boards, the doors are either of six panels or five panels. The entrance doorway to #575 is located at the center of the west facade. The other doorways are located on the sides facing the open area (i.e., south and west).

- b. Windows: There is a full variety of window types on this building. The windows of 575 are wood double-hung six-over-six sash; 577 has wood double-hung windows with one-over-one and six-over-one sash; the windows of 581, 583, are constructed of miscellaneous sash pieces; the windows of 585 are of wood, in single-pane casements. Some openings have a wood trim on the exterior.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The roof of 575 is gabled with the ridge running north and south. All other portions of the building have low shed-roof forms. The roofs are covered with rolled asphalt roofing.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The building has exposed rafter ends with some flat board fascias.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: This building has an over-all plan in the L configuration. There are five units. #575 is a three-room unit with two rooms on the west front. Entry is made to the room on the north side. There is one long room on the east rear, accessible from the room on the south. #577 is a two-room unit. Entry is made into the larger of the rooms, with access then to the secondary room to its west. #579 is a three-room unit. Entry is made into the smallest room, with access then into a larger room, which has been divided by a partition into two rooms. #581 is a three-room unit. Entry is into the room on the south-west, with access to a room directly east of it and to one to the north. The latter room might possibly be the oldest building on the block. #585 is a two-room unit. Entry is made from the west into the first room, which gives access to the second room to its east.
- 2. Flooring: There are both concrete slab floors and wood board floors in this building. The front rooms of #575 are of wood, as are the rear rooms of #579, the north and east rooms of #583, and the floors of #585. All the rest are concrete.
- 3. Wall and ceiling materials: The walls are generally of plaster on adobe. There are some frame partitions, either with board surface or plastered.
- 4. Openings: Interior openings generally have flat board jambs, with some flat board trim. Doors are generally missing.

D. Site:

1. This building is situated on the east side of South Meyer Avenue. It sets against its north property line with the street unit #575 abutting the neighboring structure to the north. The building extends east to the rear property line, and then south to that property line. These portions of the building loosely define an open area which has a fence along the south property line.

There is a three-unit outdoor bathroom structure of concrete blocks, containing toilet, lavatory, and shower.

There are no other structures on the site.

There is no vegetation other than some Chinaberry trees in the front yard of #575.

Prepared by: Prof. Robert C. Giebner
Project Supervisor
Professor of Architecture
University of Arizona
July 1980

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Old Views: 1880 aerial photograph of Tucson taken from Sentinel Peak. Arizona Historical Society.

B. Bibliography:

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps, 1909, 1914, 1919, 1948.

Tract Books, Pioneer National Title Insurance Co. (Microfilm, Recorder's Records)

Tucson City Directories, 1881-1979.

Building slips, Pima County Assessor's Office.

Arizona Historical Society clipbooks (Florencio Gallego)

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service's National Architectural and Engineering Record (NAER) in cooperation with the Tucson Barrio Association, Inc. Funds for the project were provided by the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office and the Arizona State Office of Economic Planning and Development. Under the direction of Robert J. Kapsch, Chief of NAER, John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect, the project was completed during the summer of 1980 at the HABS field office in Tucson, Arizona, by Robert C. Giebner, Project Supervisor (Professor of Architecture, University of Arizona); William Joseph Graham, Project Foreman (University of Maryland); Ann E. Huston, Project Historian (California State University, Sacramento); Maureen L. Gerhold, Assistant Historian (Pennsylvania State University); Student Architects Scott Marshall Dolph (University of Arizona); Carol Jean Lemon (Washington State University); and Harrison Adam Sutphin (Virginia Tech); and Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) Summer Youth Employment Program Interns: Maria Arriola (Tucson High School); Ernest Cotta; Lupita Lopez (Tucson High School), and Anna Trinidad. Photographic records were made for HABS by David J. Kaminsky, Photographer, Roswell, New Mexico. Editing and final preparation of the documentation was carried out in 1981 in the HABS Washington Office by William Joseph Graham, Architect, and Lucy Pope Wheeler, Writer/Editor, of the HABS professional staff.

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